

REMARKS

The present communication is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on March 12, 2009. In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner required election of one of six (6) restriction groups, which will not be reiterated herein.

In response, Applicants elect the claims of Group II (*i.e.*, claims 15, 16, 21, and 25-29) with traverse.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed because all the claims are linked by a common technical feature, in particular the disclosed novel BagCel cellulase. That cellulases are generally known in the art does defeat the novelty of the particular disclosed cellulase, as the Examiner appears to assert.

In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner required further election of one of two (2) restriction groups within Group II, namely, (C) a non-*bacillus* source and (D) a *bacillus* source.

In response, Applicants elect the claims corresponding to Group D with traverse. The Restriction Requirement is traversed because all the claims are linked by a common technical feature, in particular the disclosed novel BagCel cellulase. It is a given that the Examiner will perform searches across *all* species, therefore, no additional searching is required whether or not the claims specify a *bacillus* source.

Applicants submit that the present Restriction Requirement is unwarranted and poses an undue burden on the Applicant to file and maintain numerous related applications and on the Patent Office to allocate resources to examine such related applications. Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement is therefore requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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